NY-NJ

Deaths

EDWARD S. COHEN
308 N STREET S.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 2, 1966

Dear David,

Early this morning I returned from N.J., Tom's River and Charlene Fitzsimmons. Though I've seen no medical reports on the months before Gary Underhill committed suicide, the interview with Charlene suggests that Underhill may well have been out of his mind when he got to the Fitzsimmons home in N.Y.

There is no question but that Underhill had connections at the Pentagon and the CIA and may have been aware of a conspiracy in the real legal sense in the Far East. But Charlene Fitzsimmons said she felt at the time that he was as upset about the Kennedy killing as she was, that she and her husband were numb and were willing to believe anything. To this day she feels the Commission report has missed the point and that Oswald was the patsy and not involved in the shooting. But she said this did not come from Underhill, that she began feeling this way the moment the news of Kennedy's death came over the TVx and Oswald was picked up. She said that she remembers two occasions when Oswald was before the camera, one when the police were leading from from their interrogation to the cell, and the other when Ruby came in and shot him. The first time a reporter asked whether he killed Kennedy and he said something like, "I haven't killed anyone." Charlene says that from that point she believed Oswald did not do the shooting. It was later that Underhill showed up.

When he came in, he was highly disturbed and began to rant about what he knew. At one point he said, "Kennedy is going to blow the whistle on the CIA," though in the present tense it did not make sense exactly. She remembers no names and nothing more specific than his comments about the Far East section of CIA carrying off the murder with Oswald as the pawn. She said he seemed to know something about Oswald, but she has no memory for what that might be. If he really did know something about Oswald before the assassination, Ramparts has the discovery of the century. But there is not much chance to find that out, unless its in a diary or papers he left, and his wife is not turning loose of xxxx them.

Contact his wife.

As to Falcon [redacted] Aeronautics, I was able to obtain some further information. The company was formed in 1960 under the corporation statutes of the District of Columbia. Paul Ogle was president and claims he is an aeronautical engineer. He is not longer in business but is a consultant to Saratoga Industries at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. I ended up talking to his mother, who lives here and whose address I was able to find in a very circuitous way. Others involved in this venture were Robert P. Hare III and Ret. General Dudley D. Hales. In June 1964 they had x $2000 in cash and something like $4000 in assets.

518-584-4100

The medical student is still elusive, though Joens Harris may know the fellow's name; he won't tell me.

What is need on Underhill, I think, is to find someone to whom he spoke in more precision than he did to the Fitzsimmons. Falcon is very likely to be a front for something. It is hard to belive that with the principals living all in Georgetown, a very fashionable part of Washington, that they could not be employed in someother capacity. None of the three turn up in the Defense Dep't directory, nor are they on the telephone register of employees at CIA in Langley. This does not mean they are not employed at one or the other agency, but their names are not on the official rosters. They may be un-people, which is what the CIA employs~~xx~~.

I have found out something that may be of interest of you, but I just stumbled on it at the Archives while going through different reports for you to find inconsisten~~x~~cies. I am having it photostated to send to you. If you recall, Oswald was given money by the U.S. for his trip back home from Russia. Poor and unemployed as Oswald was when he came back here, he made payments of $5, $6, $3, etc to pay back his debt. Along in the fall he suddenly pays $250, $300~~xx~~, or sums such as these. Where did the money come from. Where would he have made the money on his jobs, as measly as they were? Where would he have gotten the interest to make the payments if he really resented the U.S. Government as is proclaimed? It seems to me that this would be the last sort of debt anyone would pay since it is obvious it is not worth suing over. Anyway, food for thought.

Ep 21

Attached is a bill for services for the seeks funning from May 16 to June 3, or three weeks. I have still not received a check for the statements I sent earlier and am getting somewhat desparate as I have a family to support and no income coming in except for an occasional article. At any rate, I would appreciate your determining personally that a check be sent to me, and it should be sent special delivery. I really would not have reached this state, but I have been putting in almost all my time on the Warren Commission and FBI documents and have run up expenses on two trips. So please ~~xxxx~~ forward me some funds; though I would like to, I honestly cannot go on this way much longer.

Sincerely,

Edward S. Cohen

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Peripheral Data,

The remainder of that week I was back at the Archives tracing through the official versions of Oswald's movements before the killing and determined two things, which you did not seem to have use for; one, that there were no records or estimates anywhere of what Oswald was doing in October 1963 despite the piles of evidence showing where he was at all other times before and after Kennedy was killed; and two, I found De Mohrenschildt's contradictory testimony on the letter he wrote to Mrs. Auchincloss, Jackie's mother from Haiti on Dec. 12,1964 in which he said he never saw Oswald since November 1962. In fact he saw him on the Monday after Easter, April, 1963, just after Walker was shot.

You still asked me to continue looking on the hope something big might turn up. I had sent you my expenses up to and through the N.Y. trip and an estimate of the time I had put in for you up to that time. You then called and asked that I concentrate on Gary Underhill, which I did starting on about May 20. A few days after that you asked me to go to Tom's River to talk with Mrs. Fitzsimmons, who had heard the story that Jones Harris and John Donovan were telling. I spent the majority of the week May 23 to May 27 on Underhill in Washington, searching out the corporate records of the District on Falcon Aeronautics and trying to find Underhill's widow and Paul Cole. John Hanes III, who was a director for Falcon and once Dulles' assistant at the State Department in the early 1950's, claimed to me he did not know Underhill, though Irving Davidson, a lobbyist here for the Murchisons, knew both Gary and Hanes, but not Cole. Though I did not work that Monday, May 23, the rest of the week was used to build a case for or against Underhill having any special knowledge.

Contact Davidson

You still wanted me to Tom's River, even though I had serious doubts that Charlene Fitzsimmons could enlarge at all on what was in that letter. Others here conformed to me that they thought Underhill was not well in his last year, but a final conclusion about his death was elusive since I could not locate the medical student who was supposed to be present when he was found dead of the gunshot wound in his head.

May 24-May 27--Gary Underhill

May 31- June 2--Gary Underhill and some loose ends on the Archives documents and trip to Tom's River.

Friday, June 3, I left for Florida and send you an accounting for the second three weeks, plus expenses.

I have summarized the timing of the work for Ramparts. Unfortunately there were no great discoveries, but I am not sure there could be fruitfulness on inquiries of this sort. Much of what you asked me to do had to be based on mere speculation, though that does not alter the fact that I used considerable time and energy seeking answers for you. I kept telephone calls and travel expenses to a minimum as I felt that telephoning is the worst way to establish a piece of evidence. Finally, because I must attend to my own work, I separated very carefully time spent for you and time spent on preparing my book. And where I put in for a couple of hours for you, or a morning, or simply an evening, I did not count it; the only time I have recorded for pay purposes are full days, from 9 a.m. in the morning to 5:30 p.m. in the evening. I hope this will answer any questions your accountants might have.

Sincerely,

Edward S. Cohen